

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

The specification has been amended on pages 1, 3, 6 and 7.

Claims 1, 6-7, 18 and 19 are currently being amended. Claims 1-22 remain pending.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants appreciate the indication that at least claims 3 and 4 contain allowable subject matter.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to for not having descriptive labels. Figures 1-3 have been amended to provide descriptive labels for elements of the drawings, and applicants submit that the objection has been overcome.

Specification

The specification was objected to for informalities. The specification has been amended to address the issues raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, applicants submit that the objection to the specification has been overcome.

Claim objection

Claim 2 was objected to for informalities. Specifically, the Office Action indicated that the recitation of “the” in line 18 of claim 2 was unnecessary. While applicants do not necessarily agree that the recitation of “the” in line 18 of claim 2 is unnecessary, claim 2 has been amended to remove “the” in line 18 to expedite prosecution of the present application. Accordingly, applicants submit that the objection has been overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Independent claims 1, 18 and 19 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to indicate that the digital certificate is “embodied on a computer readable medium.” Moreover, claims 1 and 19 have been amended to clarify that the “executable file” is an “executable program file.” Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, are directed to statutory subject matter, and respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 5-14 and 18-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,189,097 to Tyckensen (“Tyckensen”). Claims 2, 15-17 and 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tyckensen in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,659,616 to Sudia (“Sudia”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a digital certificate, and recites “which credential attribute function is embedded in the digital certificate as an executable program file, in which the credential attribute function can determine the value of the credential attribute property at least partly when the executable program file is executed.” Tyckensen and Sudia fail to suggest at least this feature of claim 1.

Tyckensen discloses a digital certificate 10 which is issued as proof of ownership to a digital product purchaser 14 of a given digital product 16 (See FIG. 2, col. 4, lines 37-41). The digital certificate 10 may include a number of components 11, which may be text-based or binary –based (col. 7, lines 27-48).

Tyckensen, however, does not include a credential attribute function, as recited in claim 1, embedded within its digital certificate 10 as an executable program file. The Office Action cites to Tyckensen in column 3, lines 28-31 as disclosing the embedded credential

attribute function of claim 1. Tyckensen in column 3, lines 28-32 states: “The subject matter of the present invention provides digital certificate format inherently assuring authenticity for both executable and static digital products embedded therein with protection against intentional or unintentional corruption.” The cited section of Tyckensen, however, does not suggest that any credential attribute function executable program is embedded in its digital certificate. The “executable” in the cited section refers to the digital product, not to the digital certificate. While the digital product 16 of Tyckensen may be an executable computer program, (See col. 4, lines 46-49), the digital product 16 is separate from the digital certificate 10, and is not disclosed as functioning like the credential attribute function of claim 1. Tyckensen discloses that digital certificate 10 is issued as proof of ownership of a given digital product 16, such as a digital image or a computer program (See FIG. 2, col. 4, lines 37-41, 46-49). The digital product 16 is separate from the digital certificate 10, however, and is not disclosed as functioning like a credential attribute function. There is no suggestion in Tyckensen of including a credential attribute function, as that credential attribute function is recited in claim 1, embedded within its digital certificate 10 as an executable program file. Claim 1 is patentable over Tyckensen for at least this reason.

Sudia also fails to disclose “which credential attribute function is embedded in the digital certificate as an executable program file, in which the credential attribute function can determine the value of the credential attribute property at least partly when the executable program file is executed” as recited in claim 1, and thus fails to cure the deficiencies of claim 1.

Independent claims 18 and 19 respectively recite “which credential attribute function is in the digital certificate as an executable program file, in which the credential attribute function can at least in part, when the executable program file is executed, determine the value of the credential attribute property”, and “which credential attribute function is in the digital certificate as an executable program file, in which the credential attribute function can at least in part, when the executable program file is executed, determine the value of the credential attribute property automatically”, and thus are patentable for reasons analogous to claim 1.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims, as well as for further patentable features recited therein. In this context, Applicants note with appreciation, the indicated allowability of the subject matter in claims 3 and 4.

Double patenting

Claims 1-22 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-38 of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/075445 (hereafter "the '445 application"). Claims of the '445 application have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of the present application. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow one of the present application and copending '445 application, at which time a Terminal Disclaimer will be filed in the other application if such is warranted. (See MPEP 822.01).

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 1-3 are being presented as a new formal drawing sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. The drawing Figures 1-3 have been amended. Appended to this amendment is an annotated copy of the previous drawing sheets which have been marked to show changes presented in the replacement sheets of the drawing.

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 1 are to label the boxes referred to by reference numerals 4, 5, 6, 8 and 12. The specific changes which have been made to Figure 2 are to label the boxes referred to by reference numerals 14, 16, 18 and 20. The specific changes which have been made to Figure 3 are to label the boxes referred to by reference numerals 34A, 34N, 36A, 36B, 36C, 36L, 36M, 38A, 38B, 38C, 38O, 38P, 40, 44A, 44B, 44C, 44L and 44M.



Fig. 1

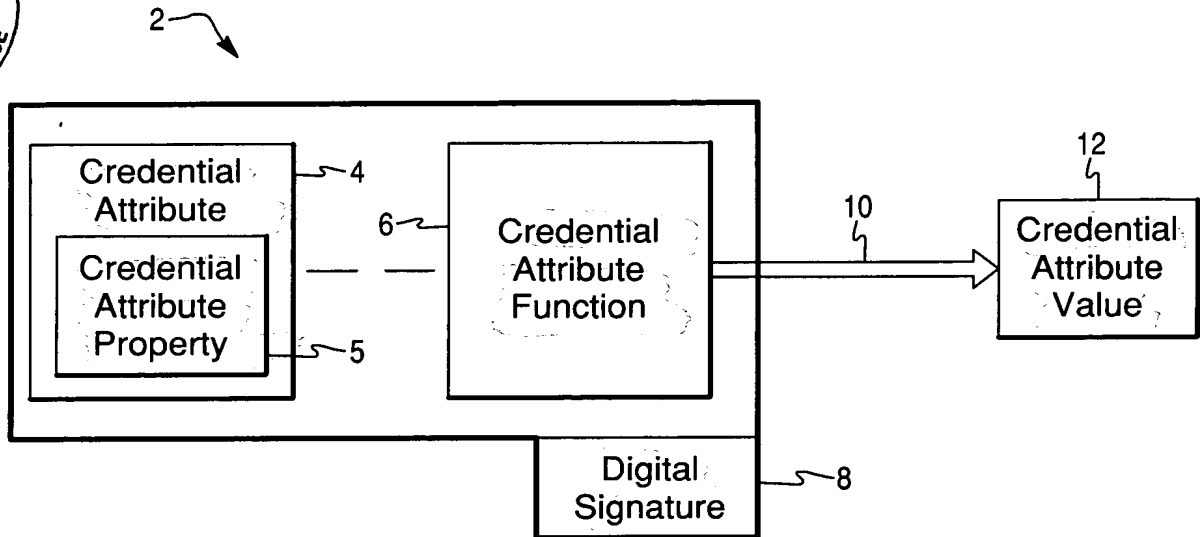
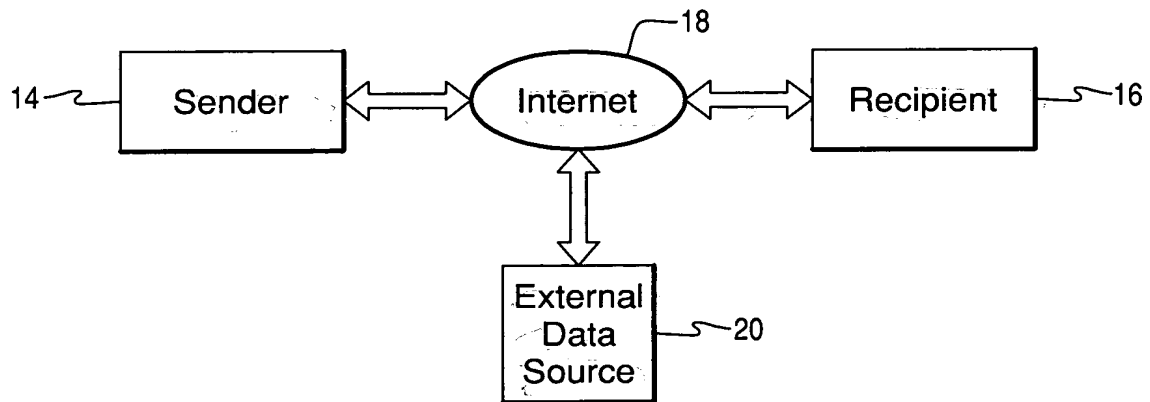


Fig. 2



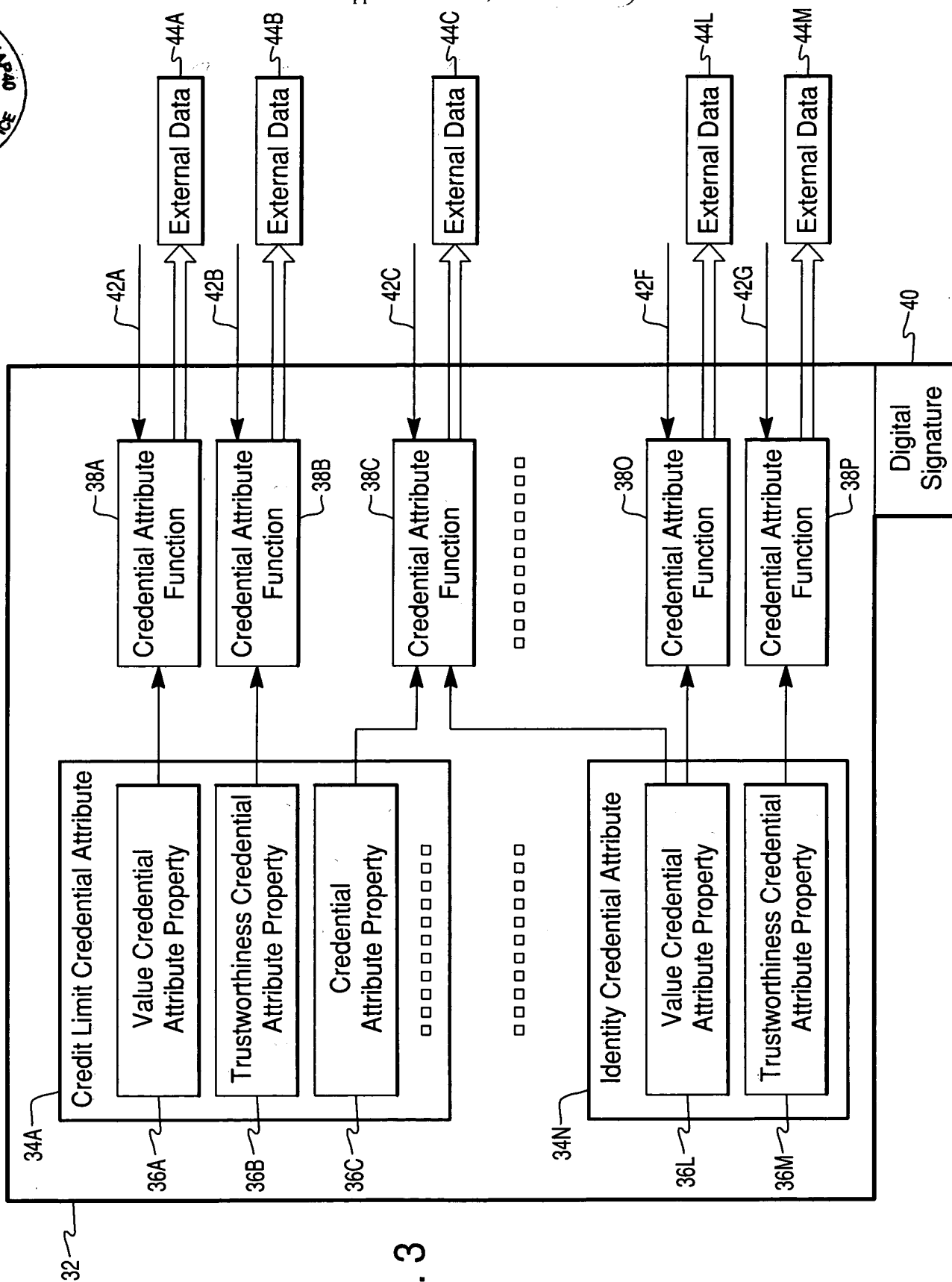


Fig. 3